

HOW CAN YOU GO WRONG?

Cecil's at The Tudor offers daily what has to be not only one of the tastiest but also one of the best bargains for lunch in all of Manhattan.

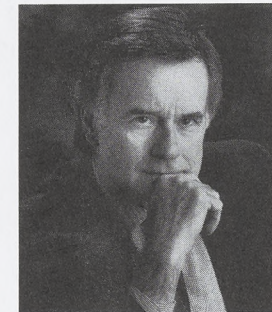
The menu daily carries seasonal specialties, including salads, sandwiches and pasta, ranging roughly from \$7 to \$15. This is reasonable enough, but the menu also offers Cecil's Carvery Lunch, a help-yourself buffet with seasonal soups, varied and exciting salads, a carving roast, seafood, poultry and game specials, as well as vegetables and potatoes or rice.

And don't pass up the elegant dessert cart. We had strawberries accompanied by a very good, understated whipped cream, and a chocolate terrine. This came with coffee, also part of the meal. The bill of our carvery lunch and dessert for two, with two glasses of chardonnay, totaled \$39.26, before tax. But then, with the 15% member discount, the bill came to \$33.11, not including a gratuity for William, who was so

responsive with beverages and other help.
—the Lunch Maven

WE KEEP GROWING

The OPC offices have been receiving lots of applications to join the club. The newest member is **Don Wright** of *The Palm Beach Post* and a 1992 OPC award winner.



Don Wright

Also new aboard is **Karin Lee Ziner**, another 1992 OPC award winner. Ziner works at the *Providence Journal*.



Karin Lee Ziner

Here is an updated list of the applications the OPC has received:

Active members: **Susan Schiffs Stautberg**, Master Media Inc.; **Mark Morrison**, McGraw-Hill.

Active non-resident: **Lori Valigra**, freelance (*The Asian Wall Street Journal*, *Science* magazine); **Ashley W. Fisher**, freelance, (*Covington Leader*, *Collierville Herald*).
Reinstatement for associate membership: **Reese J. Stone**, *Children's Television Workshop*.

OPC MEMBER HITS THE AIRWAVES

Stanley A. Frankel, an OPC member for 40 years, just debuted his cable TV talk show called "Frankel-y Speaking." The show first aired in early November and is on Channel 14.

On the first show, Frankel discussed his recent best-selling book "Frankel-y Speaking About World War II in the South Pacific."

Future shows in this bi-weekly series will cover other combat activities involving Frankel, including the capture of Bilibid prison in Manila and the con-

frontation with General MacArthur in the Philippines.

OBITUARY

UPI's long-time Beijing bureau chief **David R. Schweisberg** collapsed and died of a heart attack in the Chinese capital on Nov. 11. He was 39.

Schweisberg had been in Asia for a decade and had been based in Beijing since 1987. He was widely respected as one of the best-informed and most experienced reporters in the Beijing press corps.

UPI Executive Editor Steve Geimann said in a statement: "David's sudden death robs UPI and journalism of a talented reporter and editor who gave much...to his profession."

Schweisberg covered the Tiananmen Square uprising in 1989.

A fund to help train Chinese journalists is being established in his memory. Contributions can be sent to The David Schweisberg Memorial Fund, c/o John Schidlovsky, Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents Club, 2 Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong.
—Lynne Curry, *Business Week*, Beijing

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CPJ dinner...

Continued from p. 1

repeatedly for exposing official corruption and for criticizing the eventual aborted transition from military rule to democracy in his country. Tina Brown, editor of *The New Yorker*, presented the award to Igiebor.

Veran Matic, editor-in-chief of Radio B92 in Serbia, a news and music station that the Serbian nationalist government has tried to silence because of its "reliable, independent reporting." The award was presented by Dan Rather.

Omar Belhouchet, editor of *El Watan* in Algeria, who was free on appeal of a one-year jail sentence for an article that questioned the government's handling of a terrorist bombing. Belhouchet has been arrested twice this year and was nearly killed by fundamental extremists. He received his award from Peter Jennings.

Ricardo Uceda, editor of Peru's *Si* magazine, who recently uncovered evidence of military involvement in two massacres of civilians. The award was presented by Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, Jr.

Representing the OPC at the dinner were Larry Smith, president, and Norman Schorr, vice president. In its continuing efforts to defend journalists and news organizations against harassment and attacks, the club's Freedom of the Press Committee cooperates actively with CPJ.

At the dinner, William A. Orme, Jr., CPJ's new executive director, said: "The assassination of a journalist is an attack on all of us in this profession whether it be a Haitian radio commentator, or an investigative reporter in Arizona exposing Mafia corruption, or the editor of a Spanish language daily who aggressively covers cocaine trafficking here in New York City. We cannot allow these murders to take place with immunity, here or anywhere else."

Program...

Continued from p. 1

Drobkov said. "This money is just a drop in the bucket."

Drobkov went on to explain that the subscription price of 96 rubles per copy wasn't enough to cover the exorbitant postage costs.

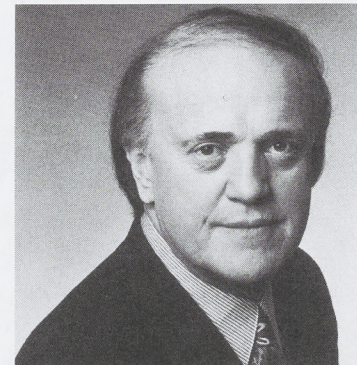
"It's cheaper to produce a paper than to send it to the nearby town because the Minister of the Press has absolute power over all of the postage in Russia," he said. "(The papers) cannot survive, and all of them are now taking money from the government, even *Pravda*. This is a very sad situation."

There'll Be Plenty To Eat At Dec. 15 Holiday Party...

Join the fun at the OPC's annual Holiday Party. The price is \$20; it is suggested that you call Club Manager Mary Novick for reservations.

The menu will include sumptuous hors d'oeuvres, such as sliced homemade red pepper, arugula and mozzarella medallions, chateaubriand on toasted ficelle rounds with tarragon mayonnaise. And, of course, those sesame chicken skewers with peanut dip. Bring your appetite. Don't be the only one not going!

Peter Arnett To Speak at January OPC Program



Peter Arnett

The Overseas Press Club of America, Inc.
320 East 42nd Street, Mezzanine
New York, NY 10017 USA

Peter Arnett—the international correspondent for CNN and winner of numerous awards, including the Pulitzer Prize and the OPC's President's Award for Lifetime Achievement—will speak at the annual scholarship luncheon of the OPC Foundation, headed by H.L. Stevenson, a former president of the OPC, on **Jan. 20** at The Tudor in New York. During his talk, he will be discussing his new book, "Life From the Battlefield," which covers his on-the-ground reports from Vietnam to Baghdad over a span of 35 years.

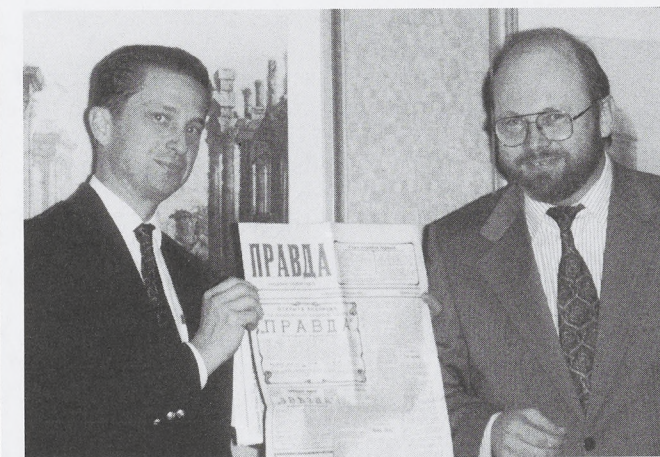
OPC Bulletin

Despite the passing of Communism... The Russian Story Gets Tougher

BY BILL HOLSTEIN

Moscow is like a scene from the Wild, Wild West. Turkish diplomats and Korean traders are flashing U.S. dollars to bribe their way past customs and immigration officers at the airport. In the streets, Russians bribe their way to get drivers' licenses and don't seem to understand the dangers of drunk driving. So the number of fatal auto accidents is shocking and smashed cars line major arteries. Box-like kiosks have sprung up on the streets to sell an incredibly wide range of goods, from Snickers to Chinese liquor, but the owners have to pay protection money to the armed gangs that control the streets.

Continued on p. 2



Vladislav Drobkov presents *Pravda's* first issue from 1912 to OPC program chair Bill Holstein. Though twice closed by Yeltsin, *Pravda* had to shut its doors for nearly a month because it simply ran out of money. Today, many papers can't survive without taking government handouts.

Where is Russia's Press Freedom?

BY AMY SIVCO

Vladislav Drobkov, the Washington bureau chief of *Pravda*, spoke recently to the OPC about the new government in Russia and the problems facing its many newspapers. Most notably, he discussed the issue

of freedom of the press, and of the clamp the government had placed on the newspapers' financial health, including *Pravda*.

"None of the Russian papers survive purely on the money they receive from subscriptions,"

Continued on p. 6

5 Journalists Recognized at CPJ Dinner

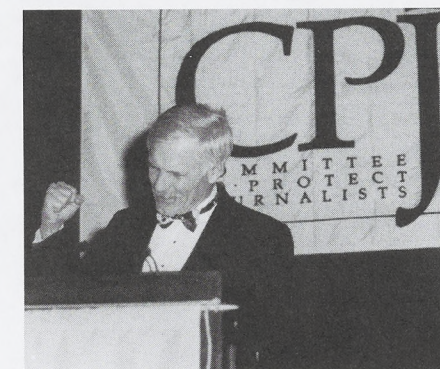
BY NORMAN SCHORR

Five distinguished foreign journalists and the U.S.-based Ted Turner, creator of CNN, were honored by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) at the group's annual dinner recently in New York City.

For his "tremendous contribution to international journalism," **Ted Turner**, chairman of the board and president of Turner Broadcasting System, received the Committee's Burton Benjamin Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Recipients of the 1993 International Press Freedom Awards, all presented by leading journalists in this country, were:

Doan Viet Hoat, editor of the



Ted Turner, creator of CNN, was honored at the CPJ dinner with the Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Freedom Forum newsletter in Vietnam, who has been held in a detention camp for three years of a 15-year

term because his publication published a variety of viewpoints. The award was presented by Terry Anderson to Long Doan, the son of Doan Viet Hoat.

Nosa Igiebor, editor-in-chief of Nigeria's *Tell* magazine, who together with his staff have been assaulted

Continued on p. 6

Holiday Party

Wednesday, Dec. 15:

Don't miss the **Holiday Party** at The Tudor's Regency Lounge, 5:30-7:30 pm. The price is \$20. Cash bar.



Izvestia's Alexander Shalnev—who was once based in New York, and has addressed the OPC—now lives in Moscow.

Moscow...

Continued from p. 1

These tough characters, mostly from the Caucasus, can also be glimpsed in hotel lobbies running the prostitution trade.

Those are the snap impressions of a first-time visitor stumbling into Moscow a couple weeks after the early October shootout at the "White House." Even though Communism is officially dead, and there is more food in the stores and markets than before, the difficulties of understanding the story and just living in Moscow mean that the job of being a Moscow correspondent is still plenty tough. So even though the U.S. press corps in Moscow is much bigger than ever before and is much better established, the difficulties—and dangers—of covering the former Soviet empire may actually have increased.

In the old days, it used to be enough to cover official pronouncements and power struggles in Moscow. But now U.S. news organizations are trying to cover the Baltics, the Caucasus, Ukraine, the Central Asian Republics and many

other newsworthy places that simply can't be covered from Moscow. The Associated Press, for example, has about 40 correspondents and stringers spread throughout the former Soviet Union, an absolute explosion from the days when the number was strictly limited. Overall, there are about 100 U.S. correspondents officially registered, but many more if you include stringers and the Americans working on the English-language papers, the *Moscow Times* and the *Moscow Tribune*.

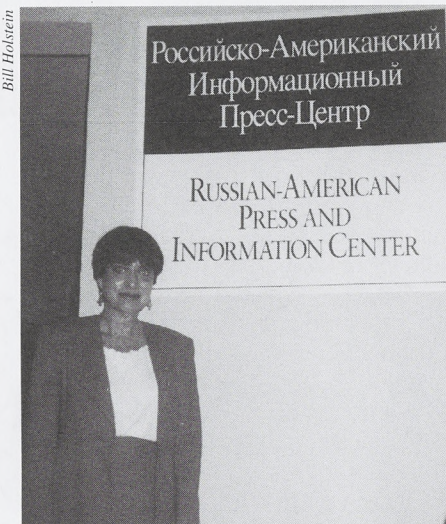
The U.S. press corps, although bigger, is also much less cohesive than it used to be in the days when

Aside from creating economically independent entities that have a chance to speak out, Russian journalists also are grappling with the difficulty of understanding the terms and concepts involved in building Western-style democratic systems.

the common enemy was the KGB. Then, most of the Yanks met each other on a regular basis at U.S. Embassy briefings and formed some personal bonds (as much as journalists ever do). But now so many different ministries and organizations are holding news briefings that, aside from the wires, most U.S. reporters rely on summaries of the briefings that are made available by the next day. Plus, they are traveling much more than ever before to farflung

pieces of the collapsed Soviet Union. The Foreign Correspondents Association in Moscow is also rather new and has not yet established itself as a focal point for the Moscow press corps. But two new organizations have sprung up:

The International Press Center & Club of Moscow recently has opened in the Radisson-Slavjanskaya Hotel. This is run by Harry Bodaan, the Dutchman who managed the National Press Club in Washington for many years until his departure. Although not economically viable yet, this has the potential of being one of the best press clubs or centers in the world, on par with the Foreign Correspondents Club Japan in Tokyo or the Foreign Correspondents Club in Hong Kong. It offers a library and speakers' events, full telecommunication and copier needs, working space, the wire service reports, a Lexis-Nexis machine, and many other essentials. This 1,000-square-meter establishment also boasts an elegant bar and restaurant that offer



Dr. Elisabeth Schillinger, co-director of the Russian-American Press and Information Center.

Moscow...

Continued from p. 2

the best cheeseburgers in Moscow, a crucial bit of knowledge for correspondents in need of an American-fix.

All this costs money, naturally. Bodaan figures he needs 1,000 members at average annual dues of \$800 to make the club viable. So far, he has 620 members, including U.S. and Russian journalists, diplomats, and Russian government officials. In addition, he has received grants from Philip Morris, Pepsi-Co. and AT&T. The Foreign Correspondents Assn. is soon to move its office into the IPCCM, says Bodan.

The other new media institution is the Russian-American Press and Information Center, financed in part by the Freedom Forum. Other groups that have helped get it rolling include the Center for War, Peace, and the News Media of the Department of Journalism at New York University and the Institute for U.S.A. and Canada Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Housed in two of the Academy's old buildings, there is some overlap in what this center does and what the IPCC-M does. They both sponsor speaking events and they both have libraries, for example. What seems to distinguish them is that the Russian-American Press and Information Center is much more oriented toward educating the Russian media in the ways of the free press. I had the pleasure of attending a session where Russian journalists from Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Nizhni Novgorod grilled three Western journalists about their concepts of freedom of the press, conflicts of interest, and the like. The thing that struck me was how immense are the challenges they face.

Aside from creating economically independent entities that have a chance to speak out, Russian journalists also are grappling with the difficulty of understanding the terms and concepts involved in building Western-style democratic systems.

On a personal note, aside from hooking up with *Business Week's* bureau chief, Peter Galuszka and his wife, Marina, I spent an evening with John Iams and his wife, Luisa Barone. John and I worked together in New York for UPI, and he arrived in Moscow some 10 years ago for UPI. He was in Johannesburg and points in the Middle East for two years but then returned to Moscow for UPI. Not long ago, he jumped ship to the AP. I forgive him. Particularly since Luisa produced the finest meal I had in Moscow. Miraculously, on the drop of a hat, she produced fresh mozzarella and

tomatoes with basil and other Italian brilliancies. I also enjoyed a drink with Dinda Elliott of *Newsweek* and her husband, Adi Ignatius of *The Wall Street Journal*. Dinda worked for *Business Week* in Hong Kong, and that's when we first worked together. Just as she displayed great go-get-it spirit in covering the People's Revolution in the Philippines, so too does she put herself at the center of events like the recent shooting in Moscow. She was mighty close to the Ostankino television center where most of the journalists who were killed met their fate. She and Adi have two sons, age 4 and 2.

It was also great fun to grab a quick breakfast at the Slavjanskaya with Doug Stanglin and Victoria Pope, both of whom work for *U.S. News and World Report*. I worked with both of them on the UPI Cables Desk in New York many moons ago. They have a 10-year-old daughter and contemplate returning stateside next year. There seem to be several husband-wife teams in Moscow. Another prominent one is the *Washington Post's* Fred Hiatt and Margaret Shapiro.

Lastly, some OPCers may recall Alexander Shalnev of *Izvestia*, who addressed one of our New York programs. He told us how Russian media organizations were undergoing such internal trauma and how he in particular was trying to find a way to sustain his posting in the U.S. Well, it didn't work out the way it might have and Sasha is now back in Moscow as foreign affairs analyst for *Izvestia* and the host of a weekly nationally broadcast television show. So he has landed on his feet and is one more reason why the OPC has lots of connections in a difficult place.

Bill Holstein is editor of Business Week's international edition and is vice president of the OPC.

A young journalist tackles Germany

Berlin: Stage Center, and a Gold Mine of Stories

BY DAVID S. FONDILLER

As a journalist bent on international news, I just returned from a yearlong fellowship in Germany. Several months of freelancing gave me a good sense of the foreign correspondent's life, but I also had a chance to work on the other side of the media fence—in the press office of a German government agency.

As the first American assigned to the press department of the German privatization agency (the "Treuhandanstalt") in Berlin, I quickly learned that my office's main function was crisis management, German-style.

Every morning, we would scan the press clippings to track the latest stories, most of which were negative: impending layoffs from a plant closing, alleged corruption by an investor, the arrest of an agency employee on bribery charges, and so on. Then we'd head down to the cafeteria as a group and chat about the day's news over coffee. Oftentimes, these relaxed meetings became organized planning sessions to anticipate journalists' questions.

In the office, I gained a new appreciation of foreign reporting by seeing it from a different perspective. Discussing the work of various correspondents with my colleagues, I realized that the nagging, highly aggressive approach didn't go over well with them. Conversely, journalists who were courteous and had specific questions always got the information they needed by deadline. For me, the experience was more than a crash course in German PR and privatization. It also confirmed some observations I had made about Germans in general.

Germans like to follow rules. They are more orderly than Americans and more deferential of authority. As a New Yorker, I was astonished to see that they actually wait for a green light before crossing the street. For journalists, this love of rules can mean a lot of red tape when dealing with government agencies and businesses. Don't be surprised when you're required to fax a written request for an interview or information.

I also found that Germans deserve

cultural differences and the language barrier—you may well ask was it worth it. Personally, I found the experience exhilarating. In the aftermath of reunification, Germany remains a gold mine of stories. To me, the fundamental challenge is trying to capture, and make sense of, the enormous changes in eastern German society.

Since the breaching of the Berlin Wall on Nov. 9, 1989, life in the five new Lander has undergone a radical transformation. As capitalism takes root, physical improvements abound. But many East Germans will tell you that the quality of life is worse. Rents have skyrocketed, and everything is much more expensive. Now that democracy has replaced repression, the old feelings of security and community have vanished.

Many complain that arrogant Wessis (West Germans) have wiped out much of what defined their cultural identity. For many years to come, tension between innovation and stagnation, clashing political beliefs and disparate mentalities will continue to split East and West Germans. Reporting this drama in all its complexity and making it meaningful to audiences back home will require an eye for features and an understanding of the underlying frictions. As the government prepares to move from Bonn to Berlin, more and more correspondents will be sent to the new capital. The excitement, the nightlife, the history. I know I'll be back.

David S. Fondiller spent the year in Germany as a Federal Chancellor Scholar of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

Given the daily hassles of working in a foreign country, the bureaucracy, the



The author, outside of the German government agency where he worked.